

Table 2. Ecological Grouping of Natural Communities Occurring in Watauga County, North Carolina, with State and Global Ranks.

ECOLOGICAL GROUPING	GLOBAL RANK	N.C. RANK
Southern Appalachian Bog (Northern Subtype)	G1T1	S1
High Elevation Seep	G3	S3
Spray Cliff	G2	S2

EXPLANATION OF RANK CODES FOR NATURAL COMMUNITY TYPES

N.C. RANK

- S1 = Critically imperiled in North Carolina because of extreme rarity or because of some factor making it especially vulnerable to degradation or destruction in the state.
S2 = Imperiled in North Carolina because of rarity or because of some factor making it very vulnerable to degradation or destruction in the state.
S3 = Rare or uncommon in North Carolina.
S4 = Apparently secure in the state, with many occurrences.
S5 = Demonstrably secure in the state.
S_? = Rank uncertain.

GLOBAL RANK

- G1 = Critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity or because of some factor making it especially vulnerable to degradation or destruction.
G2 = Imperiled globally because of rarity or because of some factor making it vulnerable to degradation or destruction.
G3 = Either very rare and local throughout its range or found locally (even abundantly at some of its locations) in a restricted range or because of other factors making it vulnerable to degradation or destruction.
G4 = Apparently secure globally, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.
G5 = Demonstrably secure globally, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.
G_? = Rank uncertain.
T_ = The rank of a subtype. As an example, G4T1 would apply to a subtype of a community with an overall rank of G4, but the subtype warranting a rank of G1.

Note: An S or G rank involving two numbers indicates uncertainty of rank. For example, a G2G3 rank indicates that the natural communities appears to warrant either a G2 or a G3 ranking, but that existing data do not allow that determination to be made.